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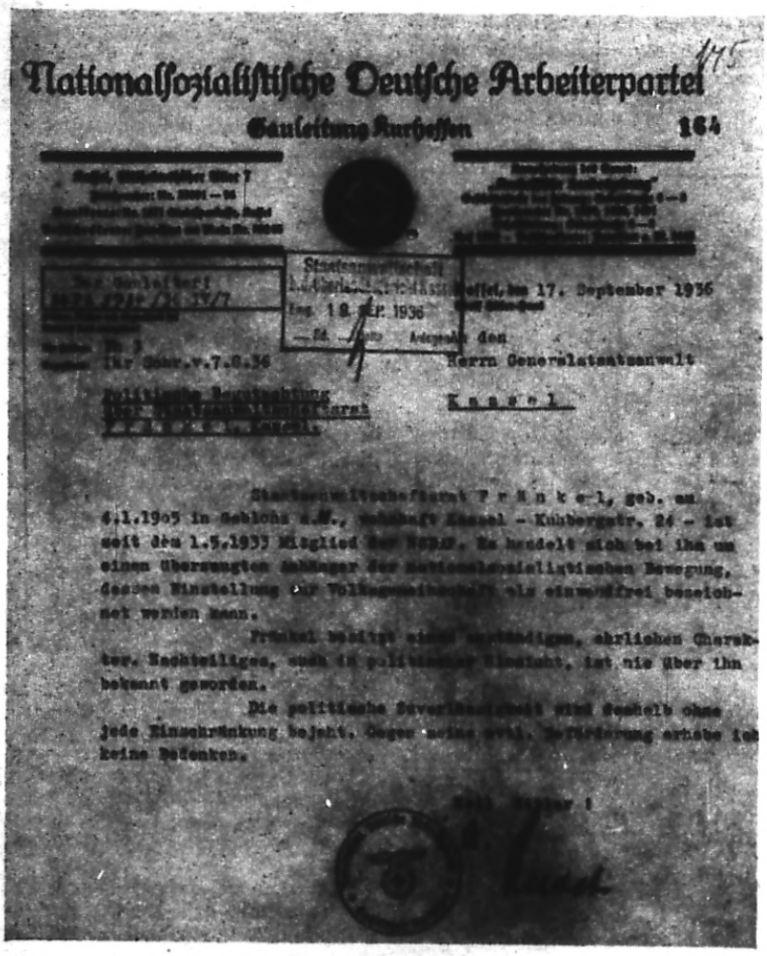
# From Nazi Files



Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei

Gauleitung Kurhessen

164

Kassel

Translation

NATIONAL SOCIALIST GERMAN WORKERS PARTY
Gau-Leadership Kurhessen

Kassel, September 17th 1936
To the Prosecutor General

**Prosecutor councillor Fraenkel . . . has been a member of the Nazi Party since May 1st 1933. He is a convinced adherent of the National Socialist movement, and his views on the Folk-community are above all reproach.**

**Fraenkel has a good, honest character. Nothing of a prejudicial nature has ever been known about him politically or otherwise.**

**His political reliability may therefore be affirmed without the least reservations. I have no objections to his possible future advancement.**

**Heil Hitler!**
**Kunst**

## Top West German Prosecutor Unmasked

The photostat on this page shows that Wolfgang Fraenkel, West Germany's new top prosecutor, was a convinced nazi. Other nazi documents, just dug from the files, show that he used every possible legal trick during the war to up-grade ferocious nazi court sentences into death penalties. Death sentences which Fraenkel obtained, or upheld, included those against a pregnant girl, against a Pole who praised the British and against a number of Jews convicted of "sullying the Aryan race".

Fraenkel was appointed West German Procurator General, the top prosecutor's job, on March 30th this year. In 1933, on May 1st — just three months after Hitler seized power, he joined the Nazi Party, and held membership card No. 2,732,006. His promotion up the legal ladder was rapid and at the age of 35, shortly after the outbreak of the war, he was appointed assistant to the nazi Procurator General. His special job was to rule on "pleas of nullity", which were in effect the last right to appeal against a sentence.

Documents so far discovered in the nazi files show that Fraenkel never used his powers to recommend a reduction of draconic or unjust verdicts handed down by nazi courts. Instead he always confirmed death sentences, if such had been imposed, and urged death sentences where lesser sentences had been passed in case of minor crimes or misdemeanors. Since Fraenkel's office was a last resort for convicted persons, his decisions meant death for at least two dozen minor offenders in the years 1941—1943 alone.

*(cont. on next page)*

*(cont. from front page)*

Here are some of the cases found in the files of the Nazi Procurator General in Leipzig:

On April 29th 1941 Joseph Cohen, 24, was sentenced to death by a nazi Special Court for "sullying the German race" in an alleged sex crime. The German woman involved had made no complaint about the offense, but when the defence appealed to Fraenkel to permit an appeal, he waited until a few days before the scheduled execution and then said, "Nothing should be done for the time being." Cohen was executed.

On October 20th 1942 a nazi Special Court tried Stanislaw Dzwonski, a Polish forced labourer, for "anti-German opinions". He had stated: "The English are not afraid of the Germans and will fight on for 20 years."

His boss, a German farmer, stated that the Pole was polite, hard-working and helpful and had onced saved his life, so the court decided against a death sentence. Fraenkel jumped into the case five days later, ruled the verdict invalid and called for a death sentence, saying that "the state must stamp out such attempts at subversion with merciless severity!"

In a trial in Prague, Josef Kobylka, a young Czech of 22, was convicted of breaking into shopwindows and was sentenced by the nazi Special Court to six years imprisonment. Fraenkel cancelled the sentence, stating: "Although this man is young he is obviously a born criminal of the most hardened sort. I would unquestionably give him the death sentence". He also criticised the courts in Czechoslovakia for being too mild. Kobylka was executed.

In another case in Czechoslovakia, the prosecutor had demanded that seven Czechs be executed for stealing ration cards. The nazi judges only sentenced five of them to death, so Fraenkel nullified the verdict and demanded seven death sentences.

In the case of "assault" by a Czech named Vladislav Vlk, the court had decided on a 16-month sentence, stating that "the accused has no criminal record, has partially admitted his guilt and had just turned 18 in January 1942. He still makes a very juvenile impression." Fraenkel ruled the decision invalid, stating, "The local court has obviously overlooked the monstrous audacity in the fact that a Czech dared to assault *a German girl*. That was a judicial error!"

Two foreign slave labourers working in Germany, a Frenchman named Radford and a Belgian named Fouconnier, were sentenced to twelve years' hard labour for stealing luggage in railroad stations. The court decided against the death penalty demanded by the prosecutor because both men were so young. Fraenkel nullified the sentences and had the two men condemned to death.

On February 11th 1943, a German post office employee named Marie Lange was sentenced to death for having lost, thrown away or stolen mail she was to have delivered. The girl, who was under 21 at the time, was pregnant, and it was considered possible that this had caused her temporary aberration. Her attorney tried to obtain a "plea of nullity" from Fraenkel. Fraenkel refused to save the girl, who had become a mother while in prison, because he did not yet possess the full documents of the case and claimed that a request to delay the execution until he received the documents was "not part of our duties".

On July 17th 1943, Fraenkel nullified the acquittal of German plumber Otto Groneuer and obtained his conviction. Groneuer had said that German soldiers on furlough stated they had seen evidence that Germany started the war against Russia and that the war was not necessary. "Since the words of the accused — especially the claim that we had attacked the Russians — make it likely that he was guilty of malice, his acquittal is unjustified," said Fraenkel, and sent the case back to the Cologne Special Court.

Fraenkel also took steps against his own colleagues when he thought they were sentencing too leniently. In April 1943, he submitted a report to his superiors stating: "After all the failures in the 3rd Senate of the Superior Court (just today another prosecution request for a death sentence was denied) I am unable to predict with even a small amount of certainty when the Senate will hand down a death sentence, even in the case of a hardened criminal... Without doubt, the 3rd Senate is much milder than the other senates."

* * *

When Wolfgang Fraenkel was appointed in March this year to his present job as top prosecutor in West Germany, Justice Minister Wolfgang Stammberger told him in his swearing-in speech: "You have seen from what I have said that you were the man of my choice as soon as I met you in Karlsruhe. The fact that my first impression was a correct one has proved more and more true as I found out more about you... You are the kind of Procurator General I like ... On the one hand you will be prosecutor in appeal cases in front of the Federal Court, that means in the state security cases most important to the Federal Republic. On the other hand, you will have appeal cases in penal trials at the Federal Court to deal with... You will have to concentrate your attention especially on the first group, the state security cases, in future. For the tasks facing the federal prosecutors will certainly not be getting lighter in the near future."

Justice Minister Stammberger was referring to planned West German attempts to ban the Association of Victims of Nazi Persecution and similar groups in the future. (Stammberger himself was officer in a punishment battalion used by the nazis during the war to get rid of anti-fascists on suicide missions.)

West German newspapers heaped unreserved praise on Fraenkel when he was appinted. The "Welt am Sonntag" wrote on April 7th:

"Fraenkel has such a sharp dislike of dictatorship as a form of government that he has not yet made up his mind to visit Spain on his annual art study trips... Almost nothing is known about Fraenkel's legal and political views except that he is a very strong opponent of the death penalty ... Fraenkel's apprenticeship with the Reich Prosecutor's Office, his open-mindedness, his very liberal educational path — all this may have led Stammberger, the new Justice Minister, to say after his first meeting with Fraenkel, 'That is my man,' ... Not a bad choice for the job of top prosecutor in a free democracy!"

## How To Win Friends

"Industrialists Alfried Krupp has been given another 12-month extension of the Allied order to sell his Rheinhausen steel works... Mr Krupp was convicted as a war criminal in 1948, but released before serving his full term... The Allies are unwilling to cancel the sale order for fear of public reaction.

"The result is that while Mr Krupp still has the sale order — a remnant of his conviction as a war criminal — hanging over his head, he and his general manager, Berthold Beitz, are amongst the most sought-after guests in American, British and French diplomatic homes here."

**United Press dispatch from Bonn, June 28th**

# FRONTIER PROVOCATIONS

## Chairman Ulbricht on Dangerous Situation

**In the past few weeks there have been repeated incidents of varying severity on the frontier of the GDR in Berlin. Recent incidents have included the shooting of two frontier guards, one by West Berlin police and one by a West Berlin special operative; repeated bomb attacks on the frontier installations; bomb attacks on the elevated railway linking the two halves of Berlin; and preparations for a large-scale shooting attack on GDR frontier guards.**

**Walter Ulbricht, Chairman of the State Council of the GDR, dealt with these and allied problems in a speech to the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party in Berlin on June 26th. Here are some of the main points from his statement:**

Certain progress has been made recently in the struggle for a German peace treaty, and for the conversion of West Berlin into a demilitarised free city. The establishment of the state frontier of the GDR in Berlin (on August 13th 1961) has created a concrete basis for negotiations on West Berlin. The authority of the GDR has considerably increased, and its peace policy is widely recognised.

It is, however, necessary to realise that just this progress has inspired the "Ultras" in West Germany and West Berlin to launch a bitter struggle against any agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union. In this connection I would like to say something about the acts of provocation against the GDR recently launched by the Ultras of West Berlin. Adenauer gave the signal (in speeches in West Berlin on June 17th). Criminal elements in West Berlin were charged with the task of launching a frontier conflict. Adenauer's aim was twofold: on one hand he wished to show that there were elements in the capital of the GDR who were ready to follow his appeal for acts of sabotage; and in addition he wanted to prove to US Secretary of State Dean Rusk that the occupation regime must be maintained in West Berlin, and that American troops should be deployed along the frontier of the GDR.

A tense situation has been created by the events of the past few weeks: the murder of members of our frontier forces by West Berlin police and by murderers hired by the West Berlin Ultras; bomb attacks on our frontier; and acts of sabotage against the S-Bahn (The Berlin elevated railway system, which is run in both East and West Berlin by the State Railway System of the GDR, ed.).

All of these actions were organised in West Berlin by the West Berlin and West German authorities, and they were acts of aggression which we regard with great seriousness. But the Government of the GDR will not allow itself to be provoked by the West Berlin Ultras. We shall continue to guard the peace, and not allow our hands to be forced by the actions of the enemies of peace.

The West Berlin Ultras are acting like the Ultras in Algeria, like the OAS. They know that their cause has no future, and so they wish to do as much damage as possible before the cause of peace triumphs.

Speaking in West Berlin recently, Chancellor Adenauer let the cat out of the bag. He said that Bonn did not want negotiations on the liquidation of the remnants of the Second World War, that Bonn did not want negotiations on the peaceful solution of the West Berlin problem. This political attack on negotiations between the Soviet Union and the USA was accompanied by the shocking statement by West Berlin Mayor Willy Brandt promising aid and succour to murderers, provocateurs and bomb-throwers as long as their crimes were directed against the German Democratic Republic.

Adenauer and Brandt were particularly keen to produce a conflict on the state frontier of the GDR immediately before the visit paid to Berlin by Dean Rusk, Secretary of State of the USA. They wanted to convince him that the Four Powers should work out a solution for the whole of Berlin, that it to say, that the western occupation powers should intervene in the internal affairs of the capital of the GDR.

West German and West Berlin spokesmen announced that they hoped to involve western troops in the acts of provocation against the state frontier of the GDR, and they announced at the same time that they did not regard this frontier as a border which they should respect.

I should like to tell these gentry that they should not place a false interpretation upon our patience. Our state frontier is inviolable, and aggressors will be given a fitting reception.

In connection with the attacks on the S-Bahn launched by the West Berlin authorities, I should like to point out that such attacks are at the same time attacks on communications with West Berlin. The traffic of the GDR State Railways, both the S-Bahn traffic and the normal train traffic (connecting West Berlin with West Germany, ed.) forms one unit. Attacks on the S-Bahn can therefore lead directly to an interruption of normal passenger traffic to and from West Berlin. Such attacks are therefore attacks on all citizens of West Berlin, and the transport of supplies for the troops of the three western powers stationed in West Berlin.

Chancellor Adenauer's latest method of preventing or delaying a German Peace Treaty is to propose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that there should be four-power negotiations on frontier incidents in Berlin. But such negotiations are quite unnecessary: all that is needed is to stop organising acts of provocation on the frontier; to close down the cloak-and-dagger organisations in West Berlin; and to stop sending bandits across the frontier into the capital of the GDR.

What is not in order is the fact that in the middle of the GDR, in West Berlin, there exist hostile organisations, NATO organisations, which organise the struggle against the GDR under the protection of the occupation powers. This is not in order, since West Berlin lies in the middle of the GDR, and since the conditions of the Potsdam Agreement have not been fulfilled in West Berlin. If the Potsdam Agreement were to be fulfilled there, then there would be no cause for argument.

If the western powers wish for negotiations on the question of West Berlin, or on the prevention of shooting incidents, then they must begin with talks on fulfilling the Potsdam Agreement in West Berlin. If a start were to be made in the liquidation of the cloak-and-dagger agencies, then progress could be made.

There are naturally questions which have to be settled in Berlin. In the normal course of events these questions should be settled by negotiations between the relevant authorities, that is to say between the Government of the German Democratic Republic and the West Berlin Senate. The Government of the GDR has expressed its readiness for such negotiations. If the question of the ending of the occupation regime in West Berlin is to be dealt with, then this is something to be handled by the Four Powers, and we know that this subject is on the agenda in the talks between the Soviet Union and the USA.

The Government of the USA and the other NATO powers have recognised, as a fact to be respected, the status quo resulting from post-war developments in Europe and our frontier measures on August 13th 1961. I cannot believe that the governments of the USA, Britain or France have the slightest interest in being dragged into unlimited complications by the provocative acts of the Ultras of West Berlin and West Germany. In fact, the hysterical attitude of the militarists and Ultras may be regarded as a proof of the fact that they no longer hope to influence their allies by normal means. We cannot overlook the fact, however, that these acts of provocation receive the support of opponents of peace in the United States.

# SPEIDEL CASE ENDS

## Nato Chief Was Criminal

The Speidel libel case, which has been dragging through the British courts for over three years, ended on June 29th with a technical victory for nazi General Hans Speidel, today commander of NATO Land Forces, Central Europe. At the same time, General Speidel implicitly admitted that he had committed numerous war crimes.

The facts of the case are as follows. In 1958, DEFA, the GDR film company, produced a documentary film "Operation Teutonic Sword" exposing General Speidel's nazi record. The film was shown in Britain, and in February 1959 General Speidel instructed his lawyers to initiate libel proceedings, under Britain's very fierce libel rules, against Plato Films of London who had distributed the film.

The case, which was fought up to the House of Lords, ended on June 29th 1962 with a settlement by which the defendants withdrew the allegations and offered their regrets. No damages were awarded.

At first sight it might appear as if Speidel had been exonerated: in fact, the case proved that he was a nazi war criminal, as the film had charged.

The film made the following five main charges against General Speidel:

**1. He had been implicated in the murder of King Alexander of Yugoslavia in 1934.**

**2. He had been a nazi spy in pre-war Paris.**

**3. He had been accomplice in the murder of hundreds of French resistance fighters and Jews in 1942.**

**4. He had committed war crimes in the Soviet Union.**

**5. He had betrayed Field Marshal Rommel to the Gestapo.**

Confronted with these charges, General Speidel only sued for libel with respect to the allegations about King Alexander and Rommel. There was considerable circumstantial evidence to show that these charges, too, were true, but this evidence was not sufficient to meet the stringent rules of evidence in a British court. On this technicality, General Speidel was able to force a settlement of the case.

But he made no attempt to challenge the statements made in the film that he had been a nazi spy, a murderer, and a war criminal, and thus admitted his guilt.

**And this man remains in command of Nato troops in Central Europe.**

# *"Million-Dollar Bribe" Charge Brings Bonn Uproar*

Chancellor Adenauer experienced his first parliamentary defeat for many years on June 29th, when a majority of the normally docile West German Parliament refused to accept a white-washing report on corruption charges levelled against Defence Minister Franz-Josef Strauss.

By 226 votes to 224 the Parliament rejected the report, which timidly admitted that Strauss had been "unwise" to get mixed up with the affairs of a phoney building firm contracting for US Army housing projects, but which refused to condemn him.

Main charge made against Strauss was that he had written a personal letter to US Defence Minister Thomas Gates, urging that a back-room building firm should be awarded a 75 million dollar contract; if the contract had gone through, Strauss would have received a bribe of nearly three million dollars.

A special parliamentary commission was appointed to investigate. Strauss claimed he had written the letter to Gates "as a favour for a friend" and claimed he would have received no financial benefits.

Following parliamentary rejection of the report, the commission is expected to re-examine the evidence against Strauss.

Commenting on his parliamentary defeat, Chancellor Adenauer commented: "This is all a plot by the neutralists to undermine our defence policy."

# NATIONAL CONGRESS DEBATE

## *Cross-Section of Opinions Aired*

**Two thousand three hundred delegates from all parts of the German Democratic Republic plus 350 guests from West Germany met in Berlin on June 16th and 17th at a National Congress which set the future course for developments in Germany. Main task of the Congress was to confirm the draft "National Document", first published in March this year, and since discussed at meetings in all parts of the country. The Congress confirmed the draft text, with two minor alterations, and declared the document to be the "National Programme of the German People".**

**Main points of the National Programme, which will be the determining factor in the work of the Government and people of the German Democratic Republic in the near future, are as follows:**

**1. German reunification will only be possible after the rule of monopolies and militarists in West Germany has been ended; this is a task for the West German people.**

**2. The GDR will press ahead with the construction of socialism and the transition to communism regardless of developments in West Germany.**

**3. The present cold war atmosphere between the two German states is unhealthy and dangerous: every attempt must be made to ensure peaceful coexistence between these states, despite all their differences.**

**4. Both German states should be militarily neutralised under the guarantee of the Great Powers.**

(A full summary of the National Programme was printed in GERMAN REPORT for April 13th.)

**Here are excerpts from some of the speeches made at the Congress:**

## Baron Prefers GDR

*Professor Sebastian Baron von Stein, Wismar:*

"I have often been asked by West German visitors why I, a member of an old aristocratic family, still remain in the GDR when in West Germany all doors would be open to me. My answer is, that it is not now important where a man can earn more money but where he can be of more service to his people. ... The working class has proved itself to be the true leader of the people, as shown by the achievements of the GDR. It is well able to lead the German people towards a happy future."

## In the Village (East)

*Margrit Fuss, apprentice agricultural worker, 18:*

"... In the past, our village was part of a huge estate. For 300 years, the von Buelow family ruled over us, and it was for them that 63 fathers and sons, my father among them, fell during the last war; another seven were among the missing and 52 were seriously wounded. Then, in the last few days of the war, twelve homes in our village were wrecked.

"Since 1945 we have built 37 new houses and a total of 52 flats. In our village there are now over 90 TV sets and seven cars. There are hardly any young fellows who don't have a motorcycle ...

"In the days of Baron von Buelow, 112 children went to school in a single classroom ... That was not so serious, however, since most parents only rarely sent their children to school because they had to help out with the work ...

"Today all the children get ten years of schooling. Fourteen children of peasants or workers are now at college or already working as agronomists, teachers and at other professions . . . 37 women spend winter evenings studying to get their certificates as trained farmers.

"In the days of the old village council, von Buelow himself was the head of it and the one rich farmer in the village was the mayor. Today workers, farmers, clerical employees, women and young people sit together in the village council and make decisions for the whole village with the whole village. It is perfectly clear that we are the ones who have a right to lead Germany today, and not von Buelow and people of his kind!"

## In the Village (West)

*Richard Hoppe, farmer from Lower Saxony in West Germany:*

"In the past few years, the struggle for existence has become more and more difficult for us West German farmers. Since our government in Bonn forced the second phase of the Common Market on us at the beginning of the year, we have more troubles and difficulties every day.

"At a recent farmers' meeting in my area we were shocked to find that almost all our land is now mortgaged to the banks. We knew the debts in our own farms, but we hadn't known those in the village as a whole ... When we asked the head of the farm organisation as to the reasons for the growing indebtedness of the village, he told us, 'If I tell you the real truth, I'll lose my job tomorrow.'

"My farm is about 50 acres in size, but I can't earn a living on it. I work on the side as a carpenter so that I can make ends meet. Since further developments in agriculture will mean the end of more than a million farms, I am pretty pessimistic about how things will be for us.

"... Many West German farmers believe that here in the GDR there is economic oppression and that the farmers were driven from their farms and have no more rights as farmers. I only wish that more farmers from my area could have been here to see how the women from the cooperative farms spoke. Frankly, I was very much amazed myself to see with what dignity and pride my colleagues from the GDR spoke of their difficulties, their work and their successes.

"Let me express one wish: try to think up ways of spreading the facts on this more widely in the Federal Republic with your radio and TV. Many prejudices against the GDR will then disappear, and we farmers from East and West will find a way to each other."

## Army Against War

*Hans-Guenther Schulz, non-commissioned officer:*

"We young soldiers, pilots, sailors and officers did not ourselves experience the days when militarism and imperialism ruled in all of Germany, when monopoly capital exploited and

oppressed the working people. That is why it was an invaluable help for us when the older comrades, the generals, officers and veterans of the old working-class struggles explained the national document to us at numerous meetings and forums in terms of what they had experienced. In this way, by understanding the experiences of the older generation and what it had to fight for we came to see the historical truth of the national document and it thus became a basis for our thinking and activity ...

"I am training the soldiers under my command in this spirit of guarding against the imperialists and militarists who have brought so much harm to Germany in the past. This training of our young soldiers is in the interests of the future of a socialist GDR and of the German nation. The People's Army is in this way an instrument of all peace-loving Germans against war, a truly national army which serves the cause of social progress."

## A Christian Stand

*Dr Christa Johannsen, writer:*

"It seems noteworthy to me that I, a member of the Christian Democratic Union (of the GDR, ed.), stand here today as a Christian who has drawn strength from changes in the real world as a result of my active participation in social activities ... There can be no doubt that the true home of the Christian is here, where he can work with others together for peace and socialism, and not in a place where weapons are blessed and war is drawn into all calculations."

## Minister on Problems

*Dr Grete Wittkowski, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers:*

"Everyone knows that the extremely unfavourable weather conditions last year resulted in a series of very poor harvests. We had two million tons less livestock feed, so that our livestock could not be fed as well as necessary. In the past few weeks the fodder situation did not show the expected improvement. The spring was extremely cold, and the first green fodder came four weeks later than usual. That meant a drop in milk production, hogs took longer to reach the proper slaughtering weight and less eggs were produced than a year ago ... Since our own farms must fill 90% of GDR meat requirements, 78% of milk and cheese and 100% of egg and potato requirements, a drop in production of this kind meant noticeable shortages ... A good supply of vegetables is naturally also dependent on good weather ...

"Sometimes we are asked why we cannot import more. We should stress that this year more than a quarter (27%) of our imports were foods and other agricultural products. To import more meat and butter would mean sacrificing other things, like coffee, cocoa, lemons. etc. It would also mean less raw materials like wool and leather and also mean cutting down the production of durable consumer goods like TV sets, washing machines and textiles, for which there is also a great demand.

In 1961 our population spent about 5,000 million marks more on industrial consumer goods than in 1958. That means that each family spent an average of 1000 marks (£90) more for such goods. Here are some examples:

| | 1958 | 1961 |
|---|---|---|
| | Units purchased | |
| Refrigerators | 48,400 | 199,000 |
| Television sets | 172,000 | 461,280 |
| Washing machines | 30,000 | 198,810 |

"Today there are 1,600,000 TV sets in the GDR; about every fourth family has one. The supply of clothing in the shops has improved greatly in amount, quality and fashion. There has been a 50% increase in the supply of children's clothing alone since 1958. But despite considerable increases in production, demand is still not being satisfied.

"One of the main reasons is the development of the income of our population. The average monthly income after taxes in worker or white collar households rose from 590 marks in 1957 to 778 marks in 1961 ... In this period, the number of households in the lower income groups has grown steadily smaller. In 1957, 37.3% of all households had an income under 500 marks a month; in 1961 the number was down to 20.3%. Families with an income between 500 and 800 marks were 46.8% of the total in 1957; in 1961 they had dropped to 36.4%. But the number of families with 800 to 1000 marks a month had climbed from 11.2% to 22.4% in these years.

"The increase in money income shows only one side in the rise in living standards. In addition there are the thousands of millions spent by the government for education, culture, health and social welfare. These amounts rose from about 400 per capita in 1951 to well over 1000 marks in the year 1961 ... (West Germany spent 582 marks per capita in 1959). In addition, the rents as well as prices for gas, electricity and transportation are much lower than in West Germany.

"The rise in buying power means a greater demand for more and better consumer goods. Although the supply of commodities has risen very greatly in the last few years, it has not kept up with increased buying power ...

"The best way to get rid of our supply difficulties in future is therefore to increase our industrial and agricultural production and achieve a regular fulfilment of our economic plan by means of our production campaign ... thus gradually getting rid of disproportions in distribution and further increasing the living standard."

## University Questions

*Professor Rudolf Schnick, Rector of Rostock University:*

"The universities in both German states developed under the same conditions at first, but their paths are now completely at variance. Where our colleges serve the people, the West German universities are ruled by big business. One evidence of this is the fact that for every 10,000 people in West Germany there are only 37 students, whereas there are 67 students per 10,000 here in the GDR. Another figure is also interesting: in the 1928/1929 semester there were 1150 students at Rostock University, of whom seven came from a working-class background. Of the 4680 students in 1962, more than half are children of workers or farmers.

"There is certainly much room for improvement in the work of the universities, but we are convinced that we have already achieved two important objectives: the new position of science and the new position of students in society. We do not pursue science in the GDR for its own sake alone, but we attempt rather to use scientific knowledge for improving the life of the people."

## Scientist Makes Proposals

*Professor Manfred von Ardenne, physicist and atomic scientist:*

"Recent decisions by the Government have created the best possible conditions for the optimal success of an all-important change in our production programme:

"The powers of the Scientific Council and hence the possibilities for its influence on basic questions of state economic policy have been widened.

"The State Secretariat for Research and Technology was founded.

"On all levels of our government apparatus it has been recognised that it is very advantageous to concentrate our limited resources of manpower, material and industrial energy on certain main products where we are in the lead in the world and therefore, since there is as yet no foreign competition, which would be

very easy and profitable for us to export.

"Last but not least, the realisation is winning its way that to reach a scientific foundation for economic decisions it is not enough to put a few specialists onto plan commissions and into the Economic Council, but that for decisions of economic importance it is absolutely necessary for the scientific potential of the Research Council and for the economic executive to be welded together as closely as possible...

"We all wish that in the future as few mistakes as possible will be made, not only in government management but in the whole mechanism of our economy. What are the sources of mistakes hampering our development? One could mention:

1. Faulty plan technology, which does not yet use modern electronic methods of storing and employing factual information, or cybernetics. (Here is a job of immense future importance for the cybernetics experts of the socialist countries.)

2. Imperfection in the method of combining the material interests of the individual with the most efficient use of modern technology, modern methods, etc. (Here is a great opportunity for our Institute of Engineering Economics.) ...

"The GDR in its current stage of development presents an infinitely fertile field for creative activity in all fields. This fact and all it implies should be understood especially by our young people and, most of all, by our students."

## Infant TB Rates Lowest in World

Tuberculosis claims the lives of less children in the GDR than in any other country, it was announced at a meeting of tuberculosis specialists from all socialist countries in Weimar in mid-June. In 1961 there were only 13 deaths from TB amongst children in the whole GDR, and the GDR has become the leading country in the socialist world in beating this disease with adults as well.

As in the other socialist countries, the GDR attributes its success to vaccination of babies, improved medicines and other medical aids, good care and scientific improvements and the highly-organised X-ray examinations of the whole population held at regular intervals, which permit doctors to catch TB in its early stages.

The 250 doctors and scientists made plans for a concentrated attack on tuberculosis in all the socialist countries — from the GDR to Vietnam. Results will vary from one country to another, but it is hoped to reduce the rate of TB cases to 6 in 100,000 by 1965.

# *Sentenced for 15,000 Deaths; "Globke" Shouts in Courtroom*

Six members of an SS "Extermination Squad" which murdered 15,000 Lithuanian and Russian Jews between June and October 1941 were sentenced in a West Berlin court on June 22nd. The trial, a result of West Berlin embarrassment after the Eichmann case, brought life imprisonment to Dr Albert Filbert, former SS lieutenant colonel who had commanded the group. Filbert had managed a bank in West Berlin before his arrest.

Filbert's second-in-command, Wilhelm Greiffenberger, was sentenced to three years in jail, but released because of the time he had spent in custody awaiting trial. Greiffenberger is chief accountant in a Munich commercial firm.

SS Lieutenant Konrad Fiebig was acquitted. He works today for West German military intelligence.

Gerhard Schneider, the SS Lieutenant who planned the organisation of the killings, got a ten year sentence, while Bodo Struck and Heinrich Tunnat got four year terms. Struck was an officer in the West German police force and all other defendants had well-placed jobs. The sentences were much lower than those demanded by the prosecutor in all cases except that of Filbert.

In announcing the sentences, the judge stated, "We have let a long time pass before calling the guilty men to judgement. We have not even taken the trouble to find out who all of them were. We knew that the murderers were amongst us, that they were sitting in government offices and everywhere else, and that they are still there."

At this point, a spectator in the courtroom shouted "Globke".

"It has almost become a rule of state policy in the Federal Republic to draw a line under such cases," the judge continued. "We no longer even investigate cases of guilty persons under the rank of lieutenant because they are always able to claim that orders forced them to commit their crimes.

"We saw some of these men among the witnesses, although they should also have been in the dock. I am thinking of Herr Neubert, for example, once head of the police company in the extermination squad, who conducted himself here with impudence and arrogance and repaid the great liberality shown him by this government with complete shamelessness, although he is exactly as guilty as defendant Tunnat." Neubert works as an official in the same court building where the trial was held.

In the plea of a defence attorney for Dr Filbert a few days earlier, another very clear reference had been made to Dr Hans Globke, who is Chancellor Adenauer's aide in Bonn. "The men who prepared the way intellectually for these crimes are sitting comfortably these days and rubbing the hands which they never dirtied. But they were the ones who wrote the commentaries which drove so many Jews to suicide." (Dr Globke wrote the major legal commentary on Hitler's anti-Jewish Nuremberg Laws.)

# "Hurrah for Franco" — Says Nazi Bonn Minister

"We stand on Franco's side!" said Dr Hans-Joachim von Merkatz, a West German Cabinet minister, on June 24th while on a trip to Madrid. "The Federal Government welcomes warmly the European course of Spain's political line. The great moral and economic efforts of Spain, which promote order, progress and stability in Europe, must necessarily be greeted with satisfaction," he said, adding that West German democracy and Spanish authority were not opposites but complemented each other.

Minister von Merkatz, a member of Adenauer's Christian Democratic Union, is in charge of Government relations with the Bundesrat (Upper House) and the provincial governments in the West German cabinet. During the war Merkatz, a former Nazi Party member, worked in Hitler's Ibero-American Institute, which organised espionage in Spain, Portugal and Latin America. He has a long record of backing every reactionary cause he can find.

After the uproar caused by press reports of Merkatz' statement, West German Press Chief Eckardt stated that Merkatz was not on an official government visit to Madrid. He did not express disagreement with Merkatz' views.

# BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By Allen Mann

"The city is changing rapidly, that's clear. Construction seems to be going on all over the place." That was one of the main things noticed by the American woman, now in her 60s, whom I showed around East Berlin. "And when I think back to my first visit here four years ago," she added, "I believe that the people look more contented, better dressed and not so drab as they were then. Of course, there's still lots to be done here."

Here, in quick review, are some of her other impressions, good and bad, in no particular order:

"East Berlin still needs to be brightened up. Maybe it's that I'm used to the bright lights of Broadway, but I think that some more neon lights wouldn't hurt at all.

"I certainly cannot understand why the area just on this side of the West Berlin frontier was never built up as a sort of show-window," she said, as we passed through a rather depressing section near the frontier. "But then, when the area now being built up around the new Karl Marx Allee is completed, with those handsome white buildings, the movie theatres, restaurants and shops and the lawns, statues and playgrounds you say will be built, then East Berlin will really have something to be proud of. And the style of the new buildings seems so much more simple and handsome than the gingerbread-type buildings of the early 1950's. When I get back in a few years, I hope to check on what has been built.

"As for the shops, in general they seem to be well-enough stocked, so far as I can see. What I miss most is a wide display of fresh fruits and vegetables — I certainly hope things can improve in this before long. But it's clear to see that Americans who get the impression that the poor people of East Germany are slowly starving to death could not be wider of the mark. It's in America right now that women are trying to slim themselves in every way, whereas here in East Berlin, men, women and children seem to be eating like crazy everywhere you turn. I'm just a bit surprised that no-one here seems to have heard about the chloresterol in fats and how it hardens your arteries.

"Of course, things are not as flashy, and shops are not as jam-full as in West Berlin. But I couldn't stand that West Berlin atmosphere for two days. I wonder what the people of Europe who suffered under the nazis say when they see West Berlin. It seems to be full of smug, pompous idiots trailed by their fat, and equally smug and pompous little dachshunds. All the time I spent there, I got the creepy feeling that these were just the people who had engaged in all kinds of atrocities — the kind we all fought together against in the war. It's as if they were back in the year 1937. This is a feeling I certainly do not have here in the East.

## Barcs Worse than Bite

**"West Germans and foreigners can visit the eastern sector (of Berlin) after producing passports or identity yards. Few who can go, however, do so. It is too risky."**

**Emery Barcs in the "Sydney Daily Telegraph" June 4th 1962**

**"About 20,000 West Germans visited East Berlin at Whitsun. There were some car queues at crossing points, but People's Police dealt with them speedily.**

**"Die Welt", West Berlin, June 12th 1962**

"What impressed me most favorably here? I think it's the child care. After seeing a kindergarten here, and hearing how children are well-cared for all day if their mothers want to go out to work, with meals and good training, for such a very tiny sum of money, I can only wish that we had something similar in America. The only thing working women can do with their children in the American big cities is to give them to Grandma or tie the house-door key on a string around their necks and hope that nothing happens to them in the streets all day.

"I was also impressed by the old-age home we saw, and by hearing that you have more and more recreational clubs for old-timers who can't yet get a place in the homes. In America, and especially in New York, I have seen how many men and women beyond retirement age have nothing to do and nowhere to go, and gradually go to pieces in their little furnished rooms for lack of companionship and something constructive to occupy them.

"And, of course, you are way ahead of America in one other field; health service. In America, those who are very wealthy have no worries in this respect, and those who are very poor are entitled to at least grudging attention in the clinics. But all those in between have to pay big sums just to see a doctor or get necessary medication. And, often enough, that means doing without. Your system of compulsory health insurance at the place of work and then full coverage of everything from a doctor's visit to a big operation or a four-week rest in a sanatorium is really fabulous. If only we had it, especially for the retired citizens, especially with medical prices soaring the way they are.

"The same is true of education. In America, people save their money from the time their baby is born in order to be able to send him to college, and if they have several children they almost need to be millionaires. I've heard it said that it takes several thousand a year to send a boy to college nowadays. And here it's not only free but they get paid enough for room and lodging as well!

"One other thing interested me, too. As someone interested in art, I had always had the impression that art work here was mostly of shiny factories or tractors and workers with Colgate-smiles. But after seeing an exhibit of art done this year, I can see that I had been misled. True, there's nothing abstract or what we would call very modern. But what I saw was certainly very interesting, I liked much of it (and disliked quite a lot too), but I can see that there's plenty of honest and capable work being done here. This was something of a surprise, I must admit.

"What was there that I did not like? I've already mentioned that East Berlin needs a lot of brightening up, with more lights and night spots, and, what I especially like, outdoor cafès where people can sit, relax and chat. I hope to find more of this if I return after a few years. Then, as I mentioned, you really should try for more variety in fruits and vegetables. I think you also suffer from too much bureaucracy from what I've seen. But on the whole, there seems to be a great deal of progress and I feel sure that you're moving in the proper direction. I wish you luck in your efforts!"

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